

Message Text

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TAGS: ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: GENERAL DEBATE

1 FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS OF EEC,
NETHERLANDS, AUSTRIA, IMF, INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
CONSUMERS UNIONS (IOCU) MADE IN ECOSOC PLENARY MORNING OF JULY 13.

2. EEC: REP DISCUSSED IN RELATIVELY GENERAL TERMS EEC POSITION
WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE EEC FEARS
PROTECTIONISM, WHICH IS AN "EASY AND FALLACIOUS" SOLUTION TO ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS. A COMPREHENSIVE LIBERALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS
NEEDED AND IN LINE WITH THIS EEC SEEKS FURTHER AGREEMENTS COMING OUT
OF MTN ON THE ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION OF TARIFFS AND NON-TARIFF
TRADE BARIERS ON IMPORTS. EEC VIEWS THE RESULTS OF CIEC AS
"SIGNIFICANT" AND BELIEVE THE US SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO AREAS IN
WHICH CIEC AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED WHILE STILL SEEKING TO ARRIVE AT
COMPROMISES IN OTHER AREAS. REP ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF
ESTABLISHING A COMMON FUND.

3. IMF: DEP MANAGING DIRECTOR DALE REVIEWED AT LENGTH THE PRESENT
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STATE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND PROSPECTS FOR THE ECONOMY FOR THE
COMING YEAR. FOR THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES HE FORESAW AN ANNUAL
GROWTH RATE OF 5 PERCENT INTO 1978 BUT NOTED THAT PROSPECTS IN
THE LABOR MARKETS WILL REMAIN UNFAVORABLE. A NUMBER OF DEFICIT
INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY FRANCE, ITALY AND THE UK, WILL,
BECAUSE OF IMPLEMENTING RESTRICTIVE DEMAND MANAGEMENT POLICIES LAST
YEAR, PROBABLY SEE A DECLINE IN THEIR CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT
OPEC NATIONS SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE A CONSIDERABLE DECLINE IN THEIR
GROWTH RATES AND A REDUCTION OF \$2 BILLION IN THEIR CURRENT ACCOUNT
SURPLUS OF \$39 BILLION. OF THE NON-OIL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE

ASIAN STATES ARE EXPECTED TO SHOW THE STRONGEST GROWTH RATES WHILE MANY LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, BECAUSE OF RECENT PRUDENT FINANCIAL POLICIES, FAVORABLE CROPS, AND HIGHER EXPORT PRICES, WILL ALSO EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC GROWTH. UNFORTUNATELY, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE NON-OIL LDC'S OF AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST ARE LEAST FAVORABLE. INFLATION IN THESE REGIONS REMAINS UNDULY HIGH AND THE CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT CONTINUES AT ITS 1975 PEAK. IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THIS REVIEW DALE ADVISED (1) OIL-EXPORTING NATIONS SHOULD PLACE THEIR SURPLUS FUNDS INTO STABLE, LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS; (2) OIL IMPORTING COUNTRIES MUST EMPHASIZE ENERGY CONSERVATION AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES; AND (3) DETERMINED EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO RAISE SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT RATES. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, HE STRESSED THAT APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENT POLICIES NEED NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT. AS TO THE FUND'S ROLE IN THE ADJUSTMENT PROCESS, DALE SAID ARTICLE IV OF THE NEW ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT WILL INCREASE THE FUND'S ROLE IN SUPERVISING THE INTERNATIONAL ADJUSTMENT PROCESS AND IN MONITORING EXCHANGE RATE POLICIES.

4. IOCU: OBSERVER DOROTHY WILLNER SPOKE OF THE IMBALANCE THAT HAS ARISEN AS A RESULT OF THE WORLD'S CONSUMERS HAVING TO FACE AN ALLIANCE OF PRODUCERS, SUPPLIERS AND DISTRIBUTORS. CONSUMERS.
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PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES, ARE FORCED TO MAKE PURCHASES ON THE BASIS OF LIMITED INFORMATION AND AS SUCH FALL VICTIM TO SUBSTANDARD AND UNSAFE GOODS. SHE CHARGED THAT CERTAIN UNSCRUPULOUS MANUFACTURERS PUT IMPORT LABELS ON GOODS SOLD IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO VOID SAFETY REGULATIONS AND FALSE CLAIM LAWS WHILE IN OTHER CASES FAULTY MERCHANDISE IS SUMPED ON LDC'S THE LACK STATUTORY CONSUMER PROTECTION. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES DEAL WITH ASPECTS OF CONSUMER PROTECTION, THEIR PROJECTS ARE FRAGMENTED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF COORDINATION. THE IOCU SEEKS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION WHICH WILL SET WORLD CONSUMER PROTECTION STANDARDS WITH REGARD TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, DEFECT WARRANTIES, UNFAIR CREDIT PRACTICES, CONSUMER FRAUD, AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION. A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED UN PROGRAM WOULD BE A FIRST STEP TOWARD THIS GOAL.

5. NETHERLANDS: AMBASSADOR KAUFMANN STRESSED, CITING TINBERGEN, LEONTIEFF AND CDP REPORTS, THAT DESPITE PERSISTENCE OF SEVERE PROBLEMS IN WORLD ECONOMIC RELATIONS, PRESENT SITUATION "IS NOT WITHOUT HOPE". HOPE SPRINGS FROM FACT THAT THERE IS NOW POLITICAL RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR ACTION. IN FACT, 70'S HAS BEEN A REMARKABLY EVENTFUL DECADE ENEN THOUGH MANY PROBLEMS STILL NOT RESOLVED. REMAINDER OF SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS TAKEN AT 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND CIEC, AND NEGOTIATING STRUCTURAL CHANGES WHICH INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM BADLY NEEDS. ALSO SUPPORTED BASIC NEEDS STRONGLY, (INCLUDING A BASIC

NEEDS ORIENTATION OF THE NEW IDS) BUT SAID THAT THIS APPROACH SHOULD NOT BE USED AS EXCUSE FOR FAILING TO UNDERTAKE NECESSARY STRUCTURAL REFORMS IN PATTERNS OF PRODUCTION, IN MONETARY AND TRADE FIELDS AND IN AREA OF RESOURCE TRANSFERS. OTHER NOTEWORTHY POINTS INCLUDED CALL FOR "MORE STRUCTURED APPROACH" TO DEBT RELIEF ISSUE (CASE BY CASE APPROACH BEING INADEQUATE TO ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES), REQUEST THAT ECOSOC STRONGLY ENDORSES RECENT UNDP DECISIONS REGARDING COORDINATION (WHICH IS NOT SATISFACTORY), AND SUPPORT FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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STRENGTHENED ECOSOC.

6. AUSTRIA: AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF BASIC NEEDS, NOTHING ESTIMATES THAT 900 MILLION PEOPLE SUBSIST ON INCOME OF LESS THAN \$75 PER YEAR. THE NEW IDS SHOULD STRESS CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH AUSTRIA FAVORS, NAMELY, "THE IMPROVEMENT OF WELFARE AND WELL-BEING OF ALL SEGMENTS OF POPULATION". REST OF STATEMENT DEVOTED TO REVIEWING IMPORTANCE OF "INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND THE KREISKY PROPOSALS FOR A MULTILATERAL PROGRAM FOR ASSISTING LDC'S IN THIS REGARD, EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR DISCUSSION OF ENERGY PROBLEM IN THE UN FRAMEWORK, AND REITERATION OF AUSTRIA'S OFFER TO HOST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE.

7. INDIAN DEL STRESSED THAT STATISTICS ON LDC DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE MUST BE DISAGGREGATED IN VIEW OF WIDE DIVERGENCES IN SITUATIONS AND PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS GROUPS OF LDC'S. HE NOTED FOR EXAMPLE THAT LOWER INCOME COUNTRIES (BELOW \$250 PER CAPITA GNP) HAS MINUS 0.3 PERCENT PER CAPITA GNP GROWTH RATE IN PERIOD 1970-75 WHEREAS AGGREGATE FIGURE FOR ALL LDC'S WAS 3.5 PERCENT FOR SAME PERIOD. PRIMARY FOCUS OF DEVELOPMENT MUST THEREFORE BE ON PEOPLE WHO ARE DEPRIVED OF BASIC NECESSITIES - THE DISADVANTAGED -- WHO MAKE UP MOST OF MANKIND. INDIA'S OWN NEW STRATEGY NOW HAS A BASIC NEEDS, ANTI-POVERTY, LABOR INTENSIVE RURAL FOCUS, HE SAID. CITING TOKYO, NAIROBI, LONDON AND PARIS HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS IN PAST 2-3 YEARS, DEL OBSERVED THAT IN VIEW OF COMMITMENTS

MADE BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AT THOSE MEETINGS, CURRENT PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE NOT SO MUCH THE LACK OF POLITICAL WILL, BUT FACT THAT HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL COMMITMENTS NOT BEING TRANSLATED INTO ACTION AT TECHNICAL LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS. ON CIEC, INDIA'S ASSESSMENT WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF MANY OTHERS - A MIXTURE OF GOOD AND BAD. THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION DEVELOPED IN CIEC SHOULD BE PRESERVED IN THE FUTURE, UNCLASSIFIED

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HE SAID. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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